



SERV-OR Bulletin

Issue # 25: As Seasons Change, New Hazards Approach

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UPDATES & NEWS

2022 Volunteer Activity

Unit	Hours	Deployed Volunteers	Value of Service
State Managed Volunteer Pool	8,454.25	146	\$253,204.79
Medical Reserve Corps	4,625.5	994*	\$228,299.11
Total Oregon	13,079.75	1,140	\$481,503.90

TRUSTED MESSENGER RESOURCES

hMPXV (Monkeypox) Updates

Visit OHA's [Monkeypox \(hMPXV\)](#) page for updated information and resources

[Tecovirimat use in monkeypox treatment](#)

Check out the latest [episode](#) of Ask a Black Doctor (S2, E4), with Monkeypox FAQs

[CDC Epic Webinar Wed, 9/28: Monkeypox 101](#)

**Duplicative of members who deployed multiple times.*

[Request](#) a SERV-OR member badge

We want to hear your [stories of service!](#)

[News](#) from the national Medical Reserve Corps office

View Oregon's COVID-19 Data Dashboards [here](#)

Preparedness Training for Community-Based Organizations [here](#)

COVID-19 Updates

[Suspension of Free Test Kits](#)

[FDA recommendations on multiple rounds of home antigen testing to avoid false negatives](#)

[Updated shelf-life extensions for home test kits](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ: 6 mos – 17 years](#)

[Subscribe](#) to COVID-19 Health Talking Points

[What's New in Treatments and Prevention Therapies?](#)

[Click here](#) for 5-11 Boosters Clinical Resources

[Rural Disability Hub for COVID-19 Vaccination Outreach](#)

Polio

[CDC COCA Call Polio in New York: How to Recognize and Report Polio, and Reinforce Routine Childhood Vaccination](#)

MonkeyPox (hMPXV) Vaccine Locator

Request free food boxes and hot meals for your next vaccine event! [Request form](#)

Questions: Accessibility.Team@dhsosha.state.or.us

Report by the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette: [Preparing Oregon's Communities of Color for Disaster](#)

Wildfire Resources and Situational Awareness [Oregon Fire and Hotspot Dashboard](#)

Interactive Map! Preparing for a [Public Safety Power Shut-off](#)

Welcome to the Team

Enola Mercer graduated from The University of Vermont with a major in Global & Regional Studies, and minors in English and Spanish.



Enola is very excited to dive into work as the Public Health Volunteer & Community Engagement VISTA with the OHA SERV-OR, connecting with like-minded professionals during her year of service, and she looks forward to the opportunities this experience offers for personal and professional development.

Health Talking Points: Bivalent Vax Rollout

On August 13, the [FDA authorized bivalent COVID-19 boosters](#) from both Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna for emergency use. The new boosters are designed to target both dominant Omicron sub-variants (BA.4 and BA.5) as well as the original Covid-19 strain. In Oregon and the rest of the US, BA.5 is the dominant strain.

While some initial concerns circulated around the [use of animal testing in lieu of human subjects](#), this process can be [compared to the annual flu shot](#). The influenza vaccine is updated yearly in an attempt to target the most likely strain to emerge in the coming flu season. Because the manufacturers don't significantly change the way they make the vaccines year to year, they do not have to undergo new clinical trials annually.

The new bivalent boosters utilize the same mRNA technology as the original COVID-19 vaccine. The only difference is that it contains the coding for the spike protein of the ancestral virus strain as well as the spike protein in BA.4 and BA.5 (which have identical spikes).

The new boosters are now available to the public; a large supply of the vaccines have been distributed to pharmacies across the state, and can be located with this [online tool](#). For those uncertain of eligibility, refer to the CDC's [interactive booster quiz](#).

Monkeypox: What does it Mean for SERV-OR Volunteers?

On July 23, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared hMPXV (Monkeypox) a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. By August 4, the US Dept. of Health and Human Services and Biden Administration announced the virus to be a public health emergency. While there have been over 6,600 reported cases in the US, there have been 179 cases in Oregon, including [two pediatric cases](#).

So, what does all of this mean as a SERV-OR volunteer?

Given the limited number of Monkeypox vaccinations available, there have been no recommendations for dedicated, large scale vaccination sites and staffing. To be eligible for vaccinations, individuals must fit into a set of [criteria](#) for which the goal is to provide vaccines to those who would most benefit. This criteria generally includes those at higher risk for contracting the disease, those identified as a contact of a contagious individual, and clinicians in close contact with the virus.

Disease prevention for the Monkeypox virus is centered around awareness and education. Current exposure, isolation, and vaccination recommendations can be found on the Oregon Health Authority's [Monkeypox Provider web page](#).

Nehalem Bay Able Readiness Exercise

This past June, the Nehalem Bay Medical Reserve Corps played a lead role in coordinating a multi-agency mass care and medical sheltering exercise. The event, Able Readiness 2, was the second in an annual series of full-scale exercises coordinated by the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS). Other planning partners for Able Readiness 2 included the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), the Emergency Volunteer Corps of Nehalem Bay (EVCNB), Nehalem Bay Fire and Rescue, Adventist Health (Clinic & Hospital), Rinehart Clinic, and Tillamook County Community Health.





Current volunteer and participant in the exercise, Velda Handler was impressed with “The engagement of the MRC team, support such as OHA, CERTs, Simulated Patients, Observers, TCCHC, Community, etc.”

Working with a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami scenario, the exercise had lofty goals for testing critical inter-agency capabilities for response and austere sustainability in the hours and days after a catastrophic event.

In the months leading up to the multi-day event, EVCNB responders from the local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), the MRC, and

Communications teams worked alongside state and local agencies to establish exercise and logistical concepts for effectively delivering life-saving care and making patient transfer decisions in a resource scarce setting.

As for the lessons learned through this exercise, “Many processes were tested, and the gaps identified are now the next projects to work on,” said Handler.





MRC Volunteers, Oregon Department of Human Services, and Oregon Health Authority staff pose in front of the Green triage tent on the community walk-through day, June 16. Pictured (left to right) Yvana Iovino, MD, Christie Sheppard, RN, Dala Prather, RN, Velda Handler, RN, Rachelle Lambert, Lic. Ac., and Sophie Miller-DeSart

Photo 1: MRC volunteer Dr. Mary Gehling and a CERT volunteer triage an adult patient at the patient intake tent, June 15

Photo 2: MRC members offer preparedness education and MRC program information on the community walk-through day, June 16

Photo 3: MRC and CERT Volunteers triage and care for a pediatric patient simulator, June 15

Stories of Service: Dr. Teresa Costa, PsyD

Provided by Renee' Menken, RN

Teresa Costa, Ph.D. has a perspective that is not often a focus when addressing the needs of those affected by a disaster. As a clinical psychologist, she has seen the impact of a disasters on mental health. The main role of the mental health provider is awareness of the effects of trauma on both the victims and the responders. Teresa would be the professional that helps a group of kids who are distressed and cannot find their parents, or seniors whose group home has been destroyed and need assistance. Also, kids with special needs may especially need this type of care. Responders need to know how to support these vulnerable groups as disaster victims may be affected for years to come depending on how their trauma was experienced.



This is the hidden trauma after the initial disaster response of rescuing, securing buildings, feeding, sheltering, and providing other concrete services for victims. Many first responders do not get training about mental health needs when working with disaster victims. How a parent is coping with emotional and mental health challenges with their kids when living in a shelter after a wildfire is important to consider. Many organizations come together the first few weeks following a disaster and then leave. Addressing mental health issues early is important in disaster follow up.

Currently Teresa is part of a larger group of state partners who are developing the new Psychological First Aid (PFA) train the trainer course for Oregon. She has independently developed a SERV-OR 8-hour PowerPoint slide deck used to train a variety of groups that want to learn PFA. One of the trainings she did was to a convention of medical transcriptionists. She had no idea of all the different languages that would be spoken there. The PFA “train the trainers” program can be accessed through SERV-OR by MRC’s and other community groups. If an MRC is asked to help with a disaster, awareness of the psychological aspects is critical. This PFA training can make a huge difference for both responders and disaster victims.

National Preparedness Month Resources

The US observes National Preparedness Month every September to raise awareness and educate communities on how to take an active role in personal and organizational emergency preparedness. This may be old hat, by now, for many seasoned emergency responders. Common suggestions and resources often include personal preparedness plans, go-kit packing lists, and readiness toolkits.

We want to recognize that in many circumstances, traditional recommendations may be limiting or noninclusive to the true diversity of our communities and the individuals who work and live alongside one another every day. Barriers such as geographic location, language, race, ethnicity, age, and socioeconomic status can all affect the ability of individuals and families to “be prepared” as outlined in

many preparedness guidelines. This Preparedness Month, we are offering a list of resources that we hope help to cultivate a more inclusive understanding of emergency preparedness.

These resources can help communities and volunteers alike to analyze the limitations and possible improvements of planning and preparing for impacts of emergencies and disaster for an array of populations.

- [Emergency Preparedness Resources for Persons from Diverse Cultural Origins](#)
- [Cultural Competency Curriculum for Disaster Preparedness & Crisis Response](#)
- [National Resource Center on Advancing Emergency Preparedness for Culturally Diverse Communities](#)
- [Individual Resilience: Factsheet for Responders](#)

More resources for individual preparedness in emergency situations.

- [Food, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Information for Use Before and After a Disaster or Emergency](#)
- [Emergency Disinfection of Drinking Water](#)
- [When Disaster Strikes: What to Put in Your Medication Go Bag](#)

Virtual and In-Person Training

Training opportunities are updated regularly [here](#).

Independent Study Opportunities

- **Emergency Medical Response Awareness for CBRNE Incidents** Gain knowledge and practical experience in the triage and treatment of chemical, biological, radiological, or explosive (CBRNE) mass casualty events. [Learn more](#). [Apply](#). Continuing education credits offered.
- **Disaster mental Health: Introduction** A self-paced web-based course for individuals who are interested in becoming Red Cross Disaster Mental Health responders. [Click here](#).

In-Person Training

- October 27-28. **The National Pediatric Disaster Conference**. This event will examine joint response potential and novel resources among first responders, healthcare (including mental health), emergency management, business, nonprofits, military forces, and others using a catastrophic incident scenario to drive discourse. [Learn more and register here](#).

- October 10-11. **MGT-417 Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents for Key Decision Makers.** *La Grande, OR.* [Register via RuralTraining](#)
- October 13-14. **MGT-417 Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents for Key Decision Makers.** *The Dalles, OR.* [Register via RuralTraining](#)

Virtual Trainings and Webinars

- **Becoming Comfortable with Health Equity Concepts and Language.** Desmond Banks, PhD, MPH, and Susan Laird, DNP, MSN, RN, discussing CDC's commitment to health equity and provide tools to help all audiences understand the place of health communications in removing social obstacles that lead to poor health outcomes and health disparities. Closed captioning and an ASL interpreter will be available. *Continuing education will be offered.* [Learn more and register here.](#)
- **Getting Ready for Resilience.** The Northwest Center for Public Health Practice is launching a new self-paced e-learning series that focuses on a persistent challenge for many of today's public health teams, especially in the wake of multiple, intersecting public health crises—building greater workforce resiliency. [Learn more and register here.](#)
- **Navigating Long COVID.** This free virtual webinar addresses symptoms, treatment, and advocacy tips for Long COVID. The event also covers workplace rights, disability identity, and accommodations. Dr. Aluko Hope with OHSU, Dylan Morgan with Bureau of Labor and Industries, and Emily Cooper with Disabilities Rights Oregon present. [Sign up here.](#)

Visit the [SERV-OR Training page](#) for links to the foundational training series for Disaster Medicine and Public Health Core Competencies, FEMA Incident Command courses, and more!

Volunteer and Job Opportunities

- [OHA Board and Commission Member Opportunities](#) (multiple listed)
- **Become an American Red Cross Mental Health Volunteer** [here.](#)
- **Join the [Mobile Health Unit Advisory Committee](#)**
- [Oregon State Hospital is hiring](#)
- **The Latino Network is hiring**
 - [Health & Wellness Sexuality Program Manager](#)
 - [Health & Wellness Coordinator](#)
- **New job postings from Healthcare News**

- [Behaviorial Health Consultant, Bend or Redmond, OR](#)
- [Certified Nursing Assistant/Hospice, Salem, OR](#)
- [Children's Care Coordinator, Grant's Pass, OR](#)
- [Clinical Supervisor-Residential, Grant's Pass, OR](#)
- [Clinical Manager, Grant's Pass, OR](#)
- [Clinical Supervisor/Therapist, Medford, OR](#)
- [Family Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant, Grant's Pass, OR](#)
- [Physical Therapist, Astoria, OR](#)
- [Psychiatrist- Children, Grant's Pass, OR](#)
- [Registered Nurse- Hospice, Salem, OR](#)
- [Therapist \(license not required\), Medford, OR](#)
- [Therapist \(license not required\), Grant's Pass, OR](#)
- [Therapist-Children \(license not required\), Grant's Pass, OR](#)
- [Therapist-Youth and Family \(license not required\), Medford, OR](#)
- [Therapist- Youth Outpatient \(license not required\), Grant's Pass, OR](#)
- [Therapist- Children, Medford, OR](#)
- [Therapist, Medford, OR](#)
- [Therapist- Residential \(license not required\), Medford, OR](#)
- [Therapist \(license not required\), Ashland, OR](#)
- [RDPO Weekly Update](#), contains information on current job openings. (Application closing dates vary depending on week)
- [Oregon Health Authority State and County jobs](#) (Dates vary depending on openings)
- For more volunteer opportunities, events, and petitions near you check out [Made to Save](#)

Contributors to this bulletin include Enola Mercer, Renee Menkens, Jeff Rubin, Paul Kaplan, and Sophie Miller-Desart. Thank you so much to this team for all their efforts!

SERV-OR Mission The mission of the State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Oregon (SERV-OR) and Oregon's MRC network is to ensure health and well-being, educate, and protect all people in Oregon by recruiting, registering, training, exercising, and deploying licensed volunteer health professionals to support local, tribal, and statewide public health initiatives, health, and medical needs during public health crises, and to improve access to preparedness education and resources for all individuals and communities.

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